

Suicide and the Elderly

(See also: [Mental Health and Aging](#) and [Hospice and Palliative Care](#))

Suicide is an ultimate act of self-abuse taken by an individual who sees no other alternative to ending their physical or emotional pain. Recognition of suicide is often difficult given efforts to hide intent and to avoid stigma and financial loss for survivors. More important than an accurate statistical count of suicides is understanding behavioral patterns of individuals before action, its prevalence among age groups, and the changes in the rates of successful and unsuccessful attempts within groups over time. Research in these areas has produced early warning signs of treatable depression and support for training and development of suicide prevention programs.

- [Consumer Information – Elderly](#)
- [Consumer Information – Suicide Prevention](#)
- [Practitioner/Researcher Statistics](#)
- [Government Agencies and Initiatives](#)
- [Advocacy and Resource Organizations](#)
- [Research Reports and Articles](#)

Consumer Information - Elderly

Older Adults: Depression and Suicide Facts

(National Institute on Mental Health)

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/elderlydepsuicide.cfm>

Homicide-Suicide in Older Persons: How You Can Help Prevent a Tragedy

(Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida)

http://www.fmhi.usf.edu/amh/homicide-suicide/art_hs_inolder.html

Suicide and Assisted Suicide

(Alzheimer's Association)

<http://www.alz.org/ResourceCenter/FactSheets/FSSuicide.pdf>

Suicide and the Elderly

(Goldman Institute on Aging)

<http://www.ioaging.org/programs/cesp/sfacts.html>

At a Glance – Suicide among the Elderly

(National Strategy for Suicide Prevention)

<http://www.mentalhealth.org/suicideprevention/elderly.asp>

Consumer Information – Suicide Prevention

Depression and Suicide in Older Adults Resource Guide

(American Psychological Association)

<http://www.apa.org/pi/aging/depression.html>

What Can I Do to Help Someone Who May Be Suicidal ?

(Menotoia)

<http://www.metanoia.org/suicide/whattodo.htm>

Understanding And Helping The Suicidal Person

(American Association of Suicidology)

<http://www.suicidology.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=2>

Suicide and Coping with Suicide

(Mayo Clinic)

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/findinformation/conditioncenters/invoke.cfm?objectid=A4EF5844-FEEC-4750-B28F7395715FBCCD>

In Harms Way: Suicide in America

(National Institute on Mental Health)

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/harmaway.cfm>

Frequently Asked Questions about Suicide

(National Institute on Mental Health)

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/research/suicidefaq.cfm>

What to Do when Relatives Commit a Homicide-Suicide

(Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida)

http://www.fmhi.usf.edu/amh/homicide-suicide/art_what_todo.html

Suicide Prevention

(Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance)

<http://www.dbsalliance.org/Info/suicide.html>

Religious Faith and Suicide

(Religious Tolerance Organization)

http://www.religioustolerance.org/sui_reli.htm

The Surgeon General's Call To Action To Prevent Suicide, 1999

<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/calltoaction/default.htm>

Practitioner/Researcher Statistics

At a Glance: Suicide Among the Elderly

(Surgeon General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)

<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/calltoaction/fact2.htm>

2000 Official Final Statistics

(Indiana University)

<http://www.iusb.edu/~jmcintos/SuicideStats.html>

U.S. Suicide Rates by Age, Gender and Racial Group

(National Institute of Mental Health)

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/research/suichart.htm>

Suicide Facts

(National Institute of Mental Health)

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/research/suifact.htm>

Deaths, Percent of Total Deaths, and Death Rates for the 10 Leading Causes of Death in Selected Age Groups, by Race and Sex: United States, 2000

(National Vital Statistics Reports)

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/pdf/nvsr50_16t1.pdf

Suicide in the United States

(National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC)

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/suifacts.htm>

Suicide and Suicidal Behavior - Fact Book for the Year 2001-2002

(National Center for Injury Prevention and control)

http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/fact_book/26_Suicide.htm

Regional Variations in Suicide Rates -- United States, 1990-1994, from Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, August 29, 1997

<http://www.cdc.gov/epo/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/00049117.htm>

Rates of Suicidal Deaths in Specific Age Groups, by Race and Sex in United States 1995

(Suicide Prevention Triangle)

<http://www.suicidepreventtriangle.org/UsRates.htm>

Suicides, and suicide rate, by sex, by age group (Canada)

(Statistics Canada)

<http://www.statcan.ca/english/Pgdb/health01.htm>

Elderly Suicide Fact Sheet

(Hospice Association of Daviess and Hancock Counties in Kentucky)

<http://hospice.hypermart.net/elderly.html>

Elderly Suicide in Los Angeles County, Age 65 and over: 1970-1993

<http://childrensinstitute.org/stats/Table160.html>

Government Agencies and Initiatives

National Strategy for Suicide Prevention

(Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration)

<http://www.mentalhealth.org/suicideprevention/>

National Institute on Mental Health

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/>

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, DHHS)

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/ncipchm.htm>

Medline – Suicide

(National Library of Medicine)

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/suicide.html>

Advocacy and Resource Organizations

American Association of Suicidology

<http://www.suicidology.org/>

Center For Elderly Suicide Prevention

<http://www.growthhouse.org/cesp.html>

Center for Elderly Suicide Prevention and Grief Counseling

(Goldman Institute on Aging)

<http://www.ioaging.org/programs/cesp/cesp.html>

Centre for Suicide Prevention

<http://www.suicideinfo.ca/csp/go.aspx?tabid=14>

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

<http://www.afsp.org/index-1.htm>

Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (SAVE)

<http://www.save.org/Grfaftersuic.shtml>

Suicide Research Consortium

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/research/suicide.htm>

Survivors of Suicide Curriculum

(University of Indiana)

<http://www.iusb.edu/~jmcintos/Survivors.Main.html>

Anxiety Disorders Association of America

<http://www.adaa.org/>

Research Reports and Articles on Suicide and Elderly

Elder Suicide: Are You Aware of It? (June 2, 2003)

(Christian Science Monitor)

<http://www.christiansciencemonitor.com/2003/0602/p11s02-coop.html>

The Elderly, Alcohol Dependence and Risk Factors for Suicide (April 2003)

(Eurekalert - American Association for the Advancement of Science)

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2003-04/aaos-tea042503.php

Report from: APA Working Group on Assisted Suicide and End-of-Life Decisions

(American Psychological Association)

<http://www.apa.org/pi/aseol/introduction.html>

Seniors and Suicide – Elderly Lead All Age Groups

(Wilder Foundation)

<http://www.wilder.org/goodage/Features/suicide101.html>

Differences in suicide between the old and the oldest old

(Max Planck Institute)

<http://www.demogr.mpg.de/papers/working/wp-2002-030.pdf>

Seniors and suicide – Elderly rates lead all age groups

(Amherst H. Wilder Foundation)

<http://www.wilder.org/goodage/Features/suicide101.html>

Health Status and Risk of Suicide in Elderly Patients

(American Academy of Family Physicians)

<http://www.aafp.org/afp/970915ap/tips11.html>

When Death is Sought – Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia in the Medical Context (1997)

(University of Buffalo)

<http://wings.buffalo.edu/faculty/research/bioethics/WDIS.html>

Hotline Program Assists Elderly at Risk of Suicide

(Washington University at St. Louis)

<http://wupa.wustl.edu/record/archive/1997/04-03-97/2296.html>

Abstracts of Currently Funded Research Grants Pertaining to Suicidal Behavior

(Includes several focused exclusively on older adults)

(National Institute of Mental Health)

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/research/suiabs.htm>

Selected Bibliography on Suicide Research - 1998

(National Institute of Mental Health)

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/research/suibib98.htm>

Suicide in Elders – An Update

(University of Hong Kong)

http://www.hku.hk/socsc/events/suicide_abs_1.htm

Suicide in Elders

(American Foundation for Suicide Prevention)

<http://www.afsp.org/education/conwell.htm>

Elder Suicide and Post-acute Care: A Gatekeeper Role for Providers

(Tripod Plus)

<http://members.tripod.com/~ProviderHelper/elder.html>

Suicide by Elderly Men on Rise

(Psychiatric Times)

<http://www.psych.org/pnews/99-01-01/men.html>

Assisted Suicide: A Disability Perspective

(National Council on Disability)

<http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/suicide.html>

BMC: 10/6/03

Center for Communication and Customer Services

U.S. Administration on Aging

Tel. 202-619-0724

FAX 202-357-3523

Internet: <http://www.aoa.gov/>

Email: aoainfo@aoa.gov